

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding ~~any one of~~ the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting ~~sequence~~ of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4 and 6 SEQ ID NO 4, or the full complement thereof.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

6-27. (Canceled).

28. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:3 and said nucleotide sequence is at least 2000 nucleotides in length, or the full complement thereof.

29. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide segment that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the entire length of a fragment of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said fragment comprises a polynucleotide sequence that encodes amino acid position 818 to 836 or amino acid position 850 to 870 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

30. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein the fragment is at least 100 nucleotides in length.

31. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein the fragment is at least 1000 nucleotides in length.

32. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein the fragment is at least 2000 nucleotides in length.

33. (New) A method of detecting a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:4 in a sample comprising:

- a) contacting said sample with a probe, wherein said probe consists essentially of a nucleic acid of claim 1, 5, 28, 29, 30, 31, or 32, under stringent hybridization conditions such that hybridization occurs between said probe and said molecule; and
- b) detecting the presence of said hybridized probe.